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Title:

State-wide All-Stations Radio Broadcast - Election

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STATE-WIDE ALL-STATIONS RADIO BROADCAST BY DON DUNSTAN. 14/4/70.

C.O. SPECIAL STANDARD EFFECT

ANN: This is a State-wide all-stations radio broadcast by Don Dunstan, on behalf of the Australian Labor Party.

DON: Good evening. On the basis of statements made by the LCL Government and the Speaker in the House of Assembly, Mr. Stott, South Australians can now expect a general election within six weeks.

"It's about time" you will say, remembering that the Government is there with only 42% of last election's vote. And the Labor Party agrees.

But the thing that interests most people at the moment is why the LCL Government has chosen to go to the polls just now - just before the end of the financial year? After all, their term of office does not finish until March, 1971. There have been many opportunities in the past when they could have called an election, just as there would have been between June this year and March next year.

The LCL's reason for calling an election is certainly not water, no matter how much tub-thumping they do about that important issue. They are completely confused about Labor's stand on water. They either don't understand - or haven't heard - that Labor agrees that Dartmouth will have to be built first. They have missed - or have not understood - that the essence of our stand is that in the building of Dartmouth first South Australia shouldn't lose its right to Chowilla later. The agreement the LCL Government wants Parliament to ratify would do just that. However, in the past few days it has become clear just why the LCL wants an election now. The reason is that Australia

is now at the beginning of a Nation-wide economic down-turn. All the signs are there. The authoritative Canberra journal, Jobson's Investment Digest, which is well-known for calling a spade a spade, has already called the situation a "Gorton Credit Squeeze". Mr. Gorton has no doubt told the Government that the writing's again on the wall for South Australia's consumer industries. The LCL Government would like to go to the polls before all its broken promises for action and before its industrial and economic mismanagement is seen starkly outlined against a black employment situation.

The Federal Treasurer, Mr. Bury, has recently called the economy "Menacing". And the menace is particularly directed at South Australia. The LCL Government in the past two and a half years has done absolutely nothing to diversify our industrial base. 71% of our industrial production is still tied to interstate markets for sales of cars, refrigerators and similar consumer goods. When people in the Eastern States stop buying such goods, South Australia feels the pinch hard. //

// The Government knows its failures. It knows it has failed to diversify and protect South Australian employment from stop-go economic policies. It knows it has failed to solve the crises in our rural industries where farmers are now forced to reduce production because of quotas, imposed solely because Liberal Governments everywhere have been unable to solve the problems of over production, even though half the world is starving. It knows that by March next year, when the election would normally be held, many farmers, unable to meet their commitments, will have been forced off the land. And the Government knows that these farmers, traditional LCL supporters, will not stand for such Government failure - just as city workers will not support a Government that is so inept at industrial planning.

There are a hundred other areas in which the LCL Government knows it has been completely lack-lustre during its term in office. Look at MATS, at State Taxes, at Education, to mention only three. Total failures! And so it believes that by tub-thumping over water it will disguise these issues. Well, the fact is it won't be able to. Nor will it be able to disguise the real issue over the dams - which is that in asking Parliament to ratify the new Murray Waters Agreement, it is selling-out South Australia's legal rights to Chowilla which we gained when we gave water-rights to New South Wales' and Victoria's Snowy Mountains Scheme.

As I have said before, the Labor Party knows that the next dam on the Murray will have to be at Dartmouth. Labor supports upper-river storages if they can benefit the whole system. But present computer studies indicate that a Dam at Chowilla could offer important advantages to South Australia in water quantity and quality. The computer graphs clearly, very clearly, show that - despite what the Government untruthfully claims. There would be a smoothing out of salinity with a Dam at Chowilla and we would have water on our doorstep.

Labor will not stand by idly while the Government sells our legal rights to such a dam, giving Mr. Gorton, Mr. Askin or Sir Henry Bolte the ability to veto it in the future. The Government believes that we should do this in exchange for an increased water "entitlement" - but what use is an increased water "entitlement" if no water is available in a dry year? It's a shallow game they're playing designed to confuse the real economic and social issues and their inadequate performance for two and a half years.

Well, it's not a game the Labor Party will play. In this coming election Labor will be asking South Australians to support it because Labor intends to give you the kind of Government you

want - one which guarantees an adequate and clean water supply - one which does diversify industry and bring economic security - one which will come to grips with the problems facing the man on the land - one which will give your children first-class education. A Labor Government will provide modern social services - imaginative town and country planning - complete consumer protection - effective pollution and environment control.

The Labor Party intends that South Australia will be the lead State again. South Australia will set the pace for the 'seventies. It'll be a matter of living better with Labor for everyone in South Australia.

GOOD NIGHT.

ANN: You have been listening to a State-wide all-stations radio broadcast written and spoken by Don Dunstan, Parliament House, Adelaide, on behalf of the Australian Labor Party.

C.O. EFFECT.